Communion News

Grants Available to Start Up Small Community Development Projects

Are you a grass-roots community group that is looking for seed money to get a project started?

The Self Development of Peoples Committee (SDOP) of the Presbytery of Philadelphia was recently reauthorized to provide small grants to groups in low-income areas seeking to start up or expand a profit making business in the Philadelphia area.

Over the past several years the SDOP committee has funded such projects as equipment for the Eastwick Bike Patrol; certification for classroom assistants at a public school; containers for a team collecting used household cooking oil; seeds, topsoil and tools for several community gardens; help for an independent taxi drivers group to obtain workers compensation insurance; and renovating a building to house recovering addicts.

The rules for SDOP grants are that project or program is controlled by those who benefit from the collective effort, 50 percent of the decision makers must have incomes less than the federal poverty level, and the activity improves the community in which it will be located.

If an organization or group meets those guidelines it may be eligible to apply for an SDOP grant. While the SDOP grants are provided through The Presbyterian Church USA, no denominational connection is required for the grants.

Form more information, contact tedbehr1@yahoo.com or visit https://presbyphl.org/leadership/committees/sdop/

Ted Behr is a member of the Phila. Presbytery Self Development of Peoples Committee and former editor of the Globe Times.

Penrose Teacher Receives Prestigious Lindback Award

By Ted Behr

When one arrives at a school at 7:00 a.m. for an interview with an award-winning teacher and you are welcomed at the door by a smiling, bright-eyed student, the message is as clear as the morning sunrise behind you… this is a special place!

That was the case at Penrose Elementary School last week when 2019 Lindback awardee, Jennifer Spano Ka-